

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: YAMAMOTO et al.

Serial No.: Rule 53(b) of 10/139,248

Filed: July 9, 2003

For: STORAGE CONTROLLER

Art Unit: Unassigned (2188 previously in parent application)

Examiner: Unassigned (G. Portka previously in parent application)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 9, 2003

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1, prior to line 1:

--This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/139,248, filed May 7, 2002, which is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/149,666, filed September 9, 1998 (now U.S. Patent 6,408,370), the subject matters of which are incorporated herein by reference.--